UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.189/PC.1/15
23 February 2000

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA
AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 1-5 May 2000
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

REPORTS, STUDIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretary-General

Contribution of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Introduction

1. In paragraph 61 of its resolution 1999/78 of 28 April 1999, the Commission on Human Rights inter alia invited United Nations bodies and mechanisms dealing with the question of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to participate actively in the preparatory process for the World Conference. The General Assembly, in paragraph 37 of its resolution 54/154, also requested human rights mechanisms to assist the Preparatory Committee and to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee, through the Secretary-General, and to participate actively in the Conference.

2. During its twenty-third session, held in Geneva from 10 to 28 January 2000, the Committee on the Rights of the Child discussed the preparations for the Third World Conference. At its 599th meeting, held on 18 January 2000, Mrs. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, addressed the Committee and was informed about the Committee's discussions and proposals.[1]

3. The Committee took into account the discussions of the sessional open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights which formulated proposals for the World Conference in March 1999 and which highlighted as a key issue, particularly within the third objective defined for the World Conference, the essential and effective role that education can play to prevent racism and promote the participation of racially disadvantaged groups in society.[2] It also took note of the recent adoption by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of General Comment No. 13 on the right to education (article 13 of the Covenant)[3] and of the decision adopted by that Committee to submit General Comment No. 13 as a contribution to the preparatory process for the World Conference.

4. The Committee on the Rights of the Child wishes to inform the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference that it has decided to draft a general comment on article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (aims of education).[4] The Committee will be making every effort to complete the drafting process in time to adopt the general comment on article 29 during its twenty-sixth session, to be held in Geneva in January 2001, so that it can be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its second session as a contribution to the preparatory process for the World Conference.

5. In addition, the Committee on the Rights of the Child will appoint one or two of its members to represent the Committee at the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and at the World Conference itself, and will continue to consider other contributions that could be made to the preparatory process for the World Conference, particularly drawing upon relevant recommendations adopted by the Committee during its examination of reports submitted by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child under article 44 of the Convention.

Notes

[1] See CRC/C/SR.599.

[2] See Report of the sessional open-ended working group to review and formulate proposals for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, E/CN.4/1999/16, paras. 35-52, and annex II, Third objective, "Education" section.

[3] Adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-first session, held in Geneva from 15 November to 3 December 1999 (E/C.12/1999/10).

[4] See Report of the twenty-third session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/94, chapter E.